the minimum support price. However, Vijayanagram Centre of Andhra Pradesh, the prices ruled below the minimum price support level for sometime due to varietal differences.

(c) In order to check the prices to fall at below minimum support perice, the National Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Federation has been undertaking price support operations.

Propagation of Palm Oil Cultivation In Karnataka

1537. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government is aware of the Karnataka Government's plans to propagate Palm-oil cultivation in the State in a big way ;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Karnataka has sought any subsidy toward area expansion programmes for Palm-oil cultivation; and

(c) whether the Central Government would consider the establishment of a National Research Centre on Palm-oil in Karnataka ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. A subsidy to the extent of 75% of the cost of the planting material subject to a ceiling of Rs. 3,750/- per hectare is being provided to all the Oil Palm growers and a subsidy to the extent of 50% of the cost of cultivation (Rs. 12,500/- per ha.) subject to a ceiling of Rs. 75,000/- (6 ha.) for individual Oil Palm grower's family are being provided for the gestation period of 4 years to promote Oil Palm cultivation during Eighth Plan in potential States including Karnataka. This subsidy is being shared between the Government of India and the concerned State Governments on 75 : 25 basis.

(c) The Indian Council of Agricultura Rsearch (ICAR) has decided to establish a field Station of the National Research Centre on Oil Palm at Sathanur Farm in Mandya District in Karnataka.

संसद सदस्यों का कृषि मंत्रालय से पत्राचार

1538. **श्री मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ मीम अफजल** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) 1 अप्रैल, 1990 से 31 मार्च, 1993 की अवधि के दौरान सांसदों द्वारा मंत्रालय को कितने पत्र लिखे गए और उनका वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ख) उनमें से कितने पत्रों की पावती भेजी गई ;

(ग) कितने पत्रों के अन्तिम उत्तर भेजे गए ; और

(घ) मंत्रालय द्वारा क्रमश : सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक उत्तर वाले भेजे गए अंतिम पत्रों के पृथक-पृथक आंकड़े क्या हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविन्द नेताम) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Post Harvest Losses

1539. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state ;

(a) what is the total post harvest losses of various agriculture products in the country ;

(b) what is the value thereof ; and

(c) what are the steps taken to develop post harvest technology and its utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) The losses (as percentage of production) at producer's level have been estimated as 4.34% in case of Paddy, 3.20% in case of Wheat, 5.01% in case of Jowar, 2.17% in case of Bajra

and 1 50% in case of Maize. The post harvest wastage is upto 25 40% in case of fruits and vegetables.

(c) In order to minimise post harvest losses at farm level the Ministry of Food is implementing a regular plan scheme known as Save Grain Compaign which organises training, demonstration and publicity programmes in selected villages. The National Horticulture Board has taken up a massive programme for creating post harvest infrastructure during the 8th Plan. The programme includes establishment of Grading Packing Centre in producing areas, development of cold chain including refrigerated transport pre-cooling units and cold storages, improving shelf life by way of waxing, etc. The Board is also assisting various organisations like co-operative societies, farmers' organisations, Agro.-Hort. Corporations, public/private limited companies for creating post harvest infrastructure facilities for horticultural produce.

Cultivation cost of Tobacco and Cotton in Guntur and Prakasam Districts

1540. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the cost of cultivation of tobacco and cotton in Guntur and Prakasam districts ;

(b) what is the per acre yield as well as cost of production; and

(c) what steps are taken to increase the production and to reduce the cost of cultivation of tobacco and cotton ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The estimates of cost of cultivation of tobacco and cotton at district level are not prepared and therefore not available.

(b) The per hectare yield of the two crops in two districts during 1992-93 is given below:

S. No.	District	Yield (Kg./Ha.)	
		Tobacco	Cotton
1	Guntur	1,271	368
2	Prakasam	1,007	319

The cost of Production at district level is not available.

(c) In order to step up production of all types of cotton, Government of India have launched a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) which is being implemented in 11 major cotton growing States including Andhra Pradesh. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is being provided for propagating the use of pheromone traps and NPV, supply of Sprinkler sets and contingencies. Similarly for tobacco, besides development of high yielding varieties, the Tobacco Board has been implementing schemes for increasing productivity of virginia tobacco. Under these schemes, farmers are assisted for balanced use of fertilisers, pest control, sprinkler sets, topping/suckericides, insulation of curing barns, etc. These schemes in cotton and tobacco are aimed at increasing productivity leading to decrease in unit cost of production.

Shortfall in Production of Foodgrains

1541. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any shortfall in the production of foodgrain during the current year ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) According to the present assessment, the production of foodgrains during 1993-94 is expected to be close to the last year's record level of 180.01 million tonnes.

Probability of Decline in Production of Oilseeds

1542. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the oilseed production is likely to fall significanctly short of the target ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?